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MARTIN DUNSFORD,

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MISCELLANEOUS
OBSERVATIONS,
IN THE COURSE OF TWO
Tours,

THROUGH SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WEST
OF ENGLAND. &c.

By ^K M. DUNSFORD, *Mercht.*
AUTHOR OF HISTORICAL MEMOIRS OF TIVERTON.

“ Eye Nature's walks, seek Knowledge where it lies,
“ And catch the Manners living as they rise. ”

Tiverton:

Printed and Sold by E. BOYCE, fore-street.

Sold also, by all other Booksellers
in Great Britain.

MDCCC.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,

IN THE COURSE OF TWO

Years.



BY M. DEKAY, Esq., Member

of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

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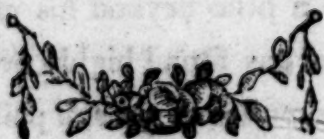
Introduction.

THE Author of these observations, has been accustomed many successive years, to make excursions on horseback, some days in every summer, for recreation from business,.....the benefit of health,.....and variety of entertainment.

To escape for a time from the contracted sphere of a single community,...the opinions of a single sect,...and influence of any party,...and to enlarge his view of mankind;to move a little beyond his usual circle of society, he has found highly beneficial to the mind, promotive of general philanthropy, and unconfined benevolence,...and aiding his prospect towards the infinite extent of divine beneficence.

Sometimes he had companions from Tiverton in his tours, but most frequently travelled alone by easy journeys, which he judged most favorable to obtain information in new society, and promote reflection; an active spirit of enquiry animated his topographical researches,...and he hopes a love of truth guided his observations on the characters and opinions of men,...the manners and customs of other individuals, and communities.

TIVERTON 24th AUGUST 1800.



MISCELLANEOUS
OBSERVATIONS;

&c.

IN the ride towards the south west of Devon, passing thro' Exeter, it occurred to me, that no person had hitherto written any regular digested history of this ancient City; for, ISACKE's memorials, tho' very deserving as proper materials for history, are rather short chronologies; and VOWELL's, an account chiefly of some remarkable public occurrences, in his own age, and near to his own times.

It certainly claims peculiar notice, that in this place, once a famed *Roman Station*; afterwards, in an early part of the Gothic Age, called *Monk-Town*, because, crowded with Monasteries, the principal repositories

of learning in those times, and the habitations of studious men; none should have arisen to convey to posterity, any regular authentic records, of this noted seat, of their well provided abodes.

That, from the time of erecting the walls of the City, and building the chapel to the virgin Mary, by King Athelstan;.....during the four hundred years progress of the Cathedral Church, to its completion;...and, since the æra of the reformation, to the present time;....among the long lists of Bishops, Deans, Prebends, Canons, Priests &c. no historian should have appeared.

That, in the great roll of Proctors, Attorneys, Barristers, Judges, and even Lord Chancellors, who have been natives or inhabitants of Exeter; men, who had the best opportunities of collecting proper materials for history, not an individual, beside the two afore-mentioned chronologists, has stepped

beyond the line, or routine of business, for that purpose.

That, not one of the philosophic class, in the materia medica, should have traced in historic lines, the progress of science or of art ; or, marked the vicissitude of human affairs here, through any part of the period of eight hundred years.

And that, of all the eminent Merchants, Tradesmen, and Manufacturers, of this noted commercial City, for two or three hundred year past, none should have preserved any accounts of the rise, advancement, progress, and changes of trade ; or, any concerns connected therewith, appeared to me very extraordinary, and begat serious reflections, that continued during a long walk through the City, on the general inattention of mankind, to the transactions and experience of past ages, which teach perhaps, the best lessons of wisdom, to futurity.

I viewed the Cathedral Church of St. Peter's here at this time, in a somewhat different light than usual,.....and estimated its value now, not merely for the grandeur and antiquity of the pile,....the order and symmetry of the edifice,.....not for the statues of Kings, Bishops, Abbots, Knights Templars, and of Rhodes, that profusely adorn the west front without;.....or, the fine paintings on glass,....admirable organ,....and magnificent episcopal throne within;....nor, for the ancient tombs, polite, if not true inscriptions, and elegant monuments:....but as an evidence of the long existence, and highly esteemed origin of the Christian religion; if not, by other fair conclusions, a collateral presumptive proof of its truth and divine authority; in which might be traced the testimony of ages, not only so remote as to the commencement of this building, named a Christian Church then as now; but to those, from

whence the plan and design or use of this was taken; and thus retrogressively, to that named Peter's at Westminster, or at Rome,.....Sophia's at Constantinople,...Helena's at Jerusalem,....and many others of different names and places, but for like purposes, in earlier ages;....thence, to some buildings of yet remoter periods, erected over the tombs of men, who had sacrificed their lives, in defence of their belief of the truth and importance of Christianity, whence those originated, and, from whence they were named,....in which, to perpetuate the memory of these martyrs to their common faith, and strengthen their own adherence to it, men assembled for religious exercises, who called themselves and were named Christians by others :.....thence, our minds are led, to the testimony of the very age, when this religion was first promulgated,.....to the times, when those lived, who first preached a religion in the

name of JESUS CHRIST, the recorded founder of it, in open places, or private houses; ...who, professed themselves his disciples and messengers,....to have known CHRIST personally,....and to have been impowered by him, to perform miraculous works, in proof of his divine authority,....works that were publicly exhibited in the age, when they were recorded, and published,...as also, the words and miracles of CHRIST himself, by his and their contemporaries, eye and ear witnesses of them:.....which, were seriously read and believed, by those to whom, they were first delivered,....who like their predecessors, sacrificed their dearest interests in this world, to their faith, and handed them in the fullest credit to their successors.

That, the same writings have been regularly read, as genuine and authentic, in the assemblies of Christians, in all ages since; and, conveyed to our times in great purity.

appears, by the writings of men, in every age, since their first promulgation;....all of whom quoted and appealed to them, on account of their estimated truth, and great importance,....and carefully preserved them, by multiplying and widely dispersing authentic copies,....and partly by means of the monastic, and other such public buildings, as that we have been noticing,....where those writings were safely deposited,....in which the same are read at this time,....and speak for themselves, that internal evidence of truth; which ennobles, and enlarges the human mind, beyond any other profession, or science whatsoever.

Except, the recent visit of KING GEORGE the third, to this venerable pile, when it was completely filled; few incidents very remarkable have occurred in this Church since the cleansing and purifying it, from the stabling of Cromwell's horses, which rudely filled the prebendary stalls.

One circumstance however, told me by a gentleman in the City, that happened within his remembrance, deserves notice; Soon after the completion, of the treaty of peace at Paris, in 1763, judged by many dishonorable to this Country, in making which, the late Duke of BEDFORD, was employed as plenipotentiary, a new and extraordinary tax, was laid on cyder, an article of great produce in Devonshire, which it was said the Duke also promoted: whether true or false, the report so increased the dislike, entertained before of his conduct, that when he came to see his large estates in this County, and visited the Cathedral in his passage thro' Exeter, a tumultuous mob assembled in the temple, and filled the avenues to it, resolving as supposed to kill him, by throwing down and trampling him to death; a journeyman printer seized him by the collar in the Church, and shaking him hard,

cried out " damme my Lord Duke ? what is become of the French King's picture sat in diamonds, given you at Paris to sell your country ? " he was relieved from the attack with great difficulty, by his attendants, and finding it impossible, to pass through the Church in safety, retreated with the Bishop, thro' a private passage to the palace, and thus narrowly escaped destruction.

Riding towards Dunsford, about five miles south west from Exeter, a white railing rose to my view, nearly two fields distant on the right, which curiosity induced me, to seek the occasion of; tyeing the horse therefore in the road, I climbed over two rough hedges, and judged the labor well rewarded, by the following inscription, on a neat plain stone, within the railing.

1765.

PRINCE,

Who died fifteen years old,

A favourite of

THOMAS BOLITHOE, Esq.

Formerly owner of this estate,

RICHARD STEPHENS,

The present owner, under Mr. Bolithoe's will

Sets this Testimony

Of his having loved the Dog, of his
Benefactor.

Nor reader let one scornful smile appear,

Nor blush to learn a useful lesson here;

Know worth is not to Man's high race confin'd,

Some generous virtues grace the inferior kind:

Untainted truth, affection void of art,

The grateful fondness, and the faithful heart;

These mark'd the humble tenant of this stone,

And PRINCE posses'd, what thou with pride
may'st own.

The stone bridge over the river Teign, about eight miles from Exeter, is very narrow, and the walls so low, that the aspect is terrifying to some horses and riders, especially towards night, to see and hear the rushing and roaring of the water, over the rocky bed of the river, about fifteen feet beneath : a few years since, one of the horses to a chaise, sprung over the wall, and, but for suddenly cutting the traces, would have hurled the chaise and passengers, to inevitable destruction.

From thence we ascended a road about a mile, on the side of a hill covered with wood, affording throughout a romantic, and in some parts towards the top, a tremendous prospect : on the left, is an ascent nearly equal to the steep descent on the right, from three to four hundred feet, to the rough meandering river, that runs thro' the deep valley, which separates this from the opposite

hill of equal height, but of such rugged, bare, and dreary aspect, as greatly diversifies the interesting scene.

The face of the country, in almost every direction, around the town of Moretonhampstead, has such rude appearance, as teaches us to think some great convulsion of nature, must have occasioned the scenes of confusion, exhibited by the scattered rocky fragments, dispersed over such great extent of land; some so large, and piled on one another, as give the idea of ruined buildings, by some tremendous earthquake; others appear, as if thrown, from the craters of volcanoes, the smaller pieces resembling, the congealed liquid matter, usually issuing from those chimneys of the world.

I lodged in this town, several nights, and had great entertainment daily, in riding and walking among those scattered rocks; in one of these excursions, with two or three

companions from Moreton, we rode to a place called *Becky Fall*, about six miles towards Ashburton, where is indeed, a very fine romantic cascade. Two rivulets uniting in a wood, and running a winding course, over a rocky and uneven bottom, hid by trees and thick bushments, with a murmuring sound as if underground, appear first open to view, on the summit of the declivity; from whence the whole stream is thrown with a deafning noise, over rough beds of mishapen rocks foaming and rushing between them, about a hundred yards in descent, when it is again lost to view in a valley darkened with trees, between very high mountains.

The continued violent course of this river, down the declivity, perhaps some thousand years; hath formed a great variety, of grotesque figures, and gloomy caves, which employ the imagination, and fill the mind with seriousness and awe.

A small low cottage, then inhabited by a very old man, and two women, is romantically situated, on the verge of the wood; into which, after walking and climbing over the rocks about the cascade, we entered to sit awhile, eat our provisions, and reflect upon the various rude scenes about us.

Where awful murmurs lull the anxious soul;
 Becalm the passions, and compose the whole;
 Hail peaceful place, which depths of wood surround,
 And rocky fragments strew the adjacent ground;
 Whose grandeur and solemnities inspire,
 The hallow'd soul, to strike the heavenly lyre;
 Happy the head, which silver hairs embrace,
 And near these awful murmurs found a place;
 A Cottage here, is a divine retreat,
 Sure 'tis a palace for the good and great;
 Where studious minds may nature's works survey,
 In forms the rudest, and most wild array;
 Creep over mossy rocks, thro' lengthened glade,
 To view the wonders of the solemn shade;
 With eager eyes, to catch the vivid rays,
 From the dread icicles, in frosty days;
 Or, near the white, the great aquatic sheet,
 Form'd when the vernal rains the waters meet;
 On verge of dreary pools, with hazard cross'd
 View boiling streams, from yonder mountain toss'd.

About two miles from this wood, we ascended *Hayter Down* very high land, and noted for two rocks, rising to a great height from the summit of the mountain, the whole of which forms the immense base. These rocks may be seen at twenty miles distance, in several directions, and are supposed, to contain more solid stone, than sufficient to build a city, as large as Exeter.

On our return thro' Manathon, we went into the Parish Church, great part of which and of the tower, was some years since destroyed by lightning, but at this time was well repaired, much ornamented, and in a very neat state. Two good paintings in oval gilt frames, *The flight into Egypt*, and *The ascension of Christ*, are placed one on each side of what is called the altar, in our churches; a name that perpetuates the incorporation of popish superstition, with pagan idolatry; but, unauthorized by the

rubric or canons, of the Church of England.

In the yard is a fine old yew tree, intentional emblem of immortality, of great spread and strait stem, about twelve feet high and ten in circumference; before it is a beautiful green, for the recreation and sports of the village inhabitants, which raised pleasing ideas of rural felicity.

In the village of North Bovey, is a similar green lawn, adorned with large trees, before an old uninhabited mansion of Lord COURTENAY's; in a small public house near it, we heard the drunkards song, highly vociferated, which forbade our entrance for refreshment; we were told this little place was noted, for the *votaries of the jug*; its recluse situation more easily eluding the superintendence of the Magistrates, makes the report not highly improbable.

The next day we rode to *Bradford pool*, about six miles towards Okehampton. This

pool or lake when full, is about half a mile in circumference, and one hundred yards wide in the middle, being of a long oval form; the banks are a gradual slope of wood, and rocky ground, very picturesque, the water smooth and clear. It was at this time drained, by an extraordinary and expensive process, and described a bottom, very rugged and uneven, about twenty feet deep in the lowest place from the surface: this had formerly been a tin mine, and discovered many marks of such work; it was drained as now about thirty years since, with the hope of working it again to advantage. This business was done, by digging a subterraneous addit or drain, beginning near Sandy Park, in a valley, nearly level with the bed of the river Teign, about a mile from the pool, and working onward on a level, 'till the miners were got almost under the centre of it, and greatest depth of water; when, by boring a

small orifice, the water rushed into the addit, pursuing the men, who were drawn up at the first shaft or pit, seven of which were dug, and well timbered within the mile, to draw up the earth from the addit, and to give light and air, to those who worked in it.... These shafts were of different depths, according to the height of the land, from the level of the drain, some of them we looked into, appeared nearly two hundred feet deep, and stones thrown into them, produced a tremendous effect: the first opened in the valley near the river, the last in the bottom of the lake; into which latter opening we walked, 'till the hazard and horror of the enterprize, obliged us to retreat.

The pool was thus drained into the Teign, the waters of which were so increased by it, as to overflow all its banks; a pit was then dug, in the bottom of the bed of the pool, in search of tin ore, about one

hundred and twenty feet deep, and proper machinery erected above, but the adventurers not succeeding to their wishes, and expectations, the work was abandoned, and this pit continues open, with eighty feet of water in it; at which height it meets the level of the addit, forms a perpetual subterraneous stream to the Teign, and prevents the pool, from being refilled. It was fearful to look into this pit, and indeed the whole place and apparatus, left a similar effect upon the mind, not easily eradicated.

We were told of an unwary foot traveller, who passing through this country by night, slid into one of the shafts or pits, of some old tin works; but catching a willow, which grew on its brink, he was prevented from falling immediately, and strenuously endeavoured to get out, but having no means of fixing his feet he could not succeed, nor, did his loud cries for help, procure him any

assistance in that dreary waste: In this terrible suspense, he continued a considerable time, 'till finding his hands and arms benumbed, after committing himself to providence, he quitted his hold, and sunk down only two feet, instead of two hundred which he had feared, the pit having been filled up to that height; having now a firm bottom, he contrived places to fix his feet, and with the aid of the friendly willow, was soon delivered.

Spinsters Rock, near this place, is said to be so named, because it was raised for shelter from the weather, by three spinners, but tho' apparently an artificial erection, it did not appear to us possible, for three hundred spinners to have effected it, especially if considered as done in an age beyond traditional memory, when the mechanical powers, were perhaps little known.

A large oval rock, fourteen feet long, ten wide, and about three feet thick in the

centre, convex on the top, and horizontal under, rests on three perpendicular stones, about eighteen inches square each, six feet from the ground, and at nearly equal triangular distances, which forms a shelter large enough for many people; it appears a rude imitation of Stonehenge, near Salisbury, and equally unaccountable.

Riding now in a small sheep walk, on the banks of the river, at a fearful height, where a little sliding or tripping of the horses, might have tumbled us headlong down the precipice, we were struck with one of the wildest romantic views, that is perhaps to be found in the kingdom: the Teign with a roaring noise, and in white foam, rushing rapidly over a bed of great fragments of rocks, thro' a long deep glen, between mountains of prodigious height, covered with huge rocks, that appear as if thrown in all directions, from some volcano, or by some other

terrible convulsion of nature ; some hanging almost perpendicular over our heads, as we rode along, and others appearing as if rolling down the precipice, threatening destruction.

One of these many rocks, twelve feet long, seven wide, and seven feet thick, rests on another great rock in the bed of the river, upon such small point and equipoise, as to be vibrated nearly twelve inches up and down, by the weight of a man stepping on either end; and after put thus into motion, without additional force, we counted twelve vibrations before it ceased: This is called the *Lagan*, or moving rock, and attracts the attention of many travellers.

On the opposite side of the river, which is about fifty feet wide, is a rude and romantic park, inclosed by an old stone wall built alongside the mountain and river, to the top of the former, making a circuit of several miles, and inclosing Whitton house, and

grounds; we saw some red deer between the rocks, browsing upon the growing woods. Altogether these were the wildest scenes of nature, I ever beheld; situated

Near to Dartmoor's wild domain,
 Seat of nature's rude array:
 Where the sad bewilder'd swain,
 Oft has trod a dreary way.

We dined on rough fare at Sandy park, and rested in the house several hours; to be thoroughly refreshed after our laborious and perilous researches, and returned late in the evening to Moreton.

This town is chiefly built, with the rough granite stones of the country, badly cemented together: The inhabitants are computed more than fifteen hundred, and from their recluse situation, on the confines of Dartmoor Forest, of which it was probably heretofore a part, speak a peculiar dialect,

and possess peculiar manners ; they are however generally very hospitable, and the minds of the lower classes of people, appear to be better cultivated, than in most other places, they are chiefly employed in the manufacture of woollen yarn and serges, for the trade of the East India company &c.

From the light sandy soil between the rocks, in this parish and vicinity, drier and better potatoes are produced, than in most other places; they are therefore much cultivated here, and large quantities sent from hence to Exeter, and many other distant towns.

Blackinstone Rock, at a small distance from Moreton, is supposed to have been a druidical temple, or rather altar for sacrifices; apparently artificial cavities in the rocks, were pointed out to me, as basons for receiving the blood of the victims, conveyed into them, thro' channels likewise apparently artificial, in different directions, from the

chief single stone on the top, supposed to have been the place of offering.

Several colonies on different plans, all for obtaining the produce of bees, without destroying them, were shewn me here, by the Secretary to the Apiarian Society, established lately at Exeter, who resides in Moreton; by several schemes of benevolence, private and public instruction, and public utility, he has contributed much, to the improvement of this place,

Mr. JOHN PARR, a dissenting minister here many years, supposed to have been the last surviving writer in the Spectator, and related to Thomas Parr, famous for his great longevity; died in this town 6th of May, 1779, aged 88 years. A man who by his very amiable, and exemplary manners thro' life, and faithful discharge of every duty, to the various branches of a numerous family: and to society, as a minister of the gospel,

deserved and obtained, the general approbation and esteem of men.

Dartmoor, made a forest by King JOHN, confirmed by HENRY 3d, who set out the bounds of it, by a charter of perambulation; tho' generally a wide uncultivated waste, affords new prospects to the traveller: all wild indeed and dreary, but diversified by high bleak hills, deep bogs, rocky precipices, and largely extended vallies; capable of profitable culture, if divided into small inclosures, and defended and warmed by trees of beech, or fir, the sorts which perhaps would best thrive in those situations. It is about twenty miles long, and fourteen broad.

Several of these vales, of southern aspect, were inclosed with stone walls, and a few trees; but in my several rides, over this wild forest, I recollect seeing but two dwellings, on those little cultivated spots; the one near a rabbit warren, seven miles from

Moreton, which was a public house, and conveniently situated for the refreshment of travellers, from Tavistock and Plymouth: The other, called the *Hut*, about seven miles from Tavistock, a low thatched dwelling, for men and cattle together, built by a poor industrious husbandman, for the more conveniently attending to the culture of the little farm, he had taken from the Moor; and which, by unremitting diligence, he had brought into such thriving state; that fields of potatoes, turnips, wheat, barley and oats, and garden of vegetables, now surrounded his dwelling; with stacks of turf, which he had dug from the marshy part of his estate, and dried in the sun for fuel.

Resting here some time, I collected from the industrious intelligent owner, much information, of the laws and customs of this forest, belonging to the PRINCE OF WALES, the mode of first purchase, of grants, of long

lease; and the *new takes* allowed, upon the information of the demise of a life, on which a herriot or fine depended.

These *new Takes* are parcels of land; answerable to the size and value of the first purchase; generally from fifty to an hundred acres, which the person who claims, is permitted to take, from what part of the forest he pleases, not occupied before; which he might sell to others, or cultivate himself at option: chargeable with a like fine or herriot on the demise of the dependent life, to be paid to the court of the PRINCE of WALES; whence he is intitled to another similar *new take*, on information, to encourage due payment of the fines, and secure a growing revenue. Before the turnpike roads were made over Dartmoor, such *new takes* might have been bought for one pound sterling an acre, on a very long lease; and made a profitable concern to the purchaser, by little

cultivation, or if left uncultivated been worth three times its cost, at the present time.

Since my last excursion to this forest, the late Judge BULLER, who had large grants of land in it, has made I am informed, very considerable improvements in cultivation; that others have imitated his example, that some tin works also are carrying on, and many houses built and building, in different parts of the forest; for the convenience of the workmen, and the traveller, over this heretofore cheerless waste.

The tracks over the Moor before the new roads were made, were marked by high stones, placed about a mile asunder, but just discernible in good weather from one to another, which if neglected to be kept in view, or prevented by the thick fogs, which frequently obstruct the sight to within a few yards distance, the traveller was bewildered, and often led astray into bogs, and other

dangerous places: In snowy weather, many have been totally blinded, and buried in deep drifts of snow, in the vallies; whence, their remains have been taken in the summer.

Tho' a company of five or six of us, at mid-day, in the midst of summer, we missed at one time, the next stone mark, and wandered an hour in different parties, in search of the road, making signals to each other; and should perhaps have wandered 'till night, if a cutter of turf we met, had not led us to the right path.

On one of the highest mountains of Dartmoor, and perhaps in the county, is *Cranmeer*, or *Cranmoor pool*, or lake, in the form of a bell subverted, and in the bosom of a dangerous bog, or morass; wholly impassable in winter, and more or less hazardous in summer, according to the dryness of the season, to cross it to the brink of the pool; the ground shaking every where around

more than a hundred yards in breadth.

This lake, is the source of three considerable rivers, one running northward, into the Severn sea; the Dart, and the Teign, southward, into the British Channel.

Remains of a large amphitheatre, are yet to be seen on Dartmoor, said to have been the seat of the *Parliament*, or *Legislature*, that enacted laws and regulations for the tin mines, the miners, and the stannary courts.

The seat of judicature was at *Ludford Castle*, on the borders of the forest, which in the time of WILLIAM the first, was so important, as always to be committed to the care of men, of the highest rank; the town also had then, one hundred and forty burgesses, enjoying privileges similar to London, and the parish, which includes almost the whole forest of Dartmoor, is now perhaps as large as any in the kingdom: here we saw the ancient Court room, or

Hall, and under it, a dark deep dungeon, for the confinement, and punishment, of criminals against the stannary regulations; which were generally so severe, as to occasion the proverb of Lidford law, *To hang first, and try the criminal afterwards.*

One of our company descended deep, into the dungeon, to some faggots of wood kept there, for which this place was now used, and which prevented us from knowing, the full depth of this horrid prison.

A little way from this village town, is a deep chasm that divides a rugged hill, the sides of the opening are rocky, covered with wood, so much intersected, as scarcely permitted us to see, the little river *Lid*, or *Skait*, at the bottom; and the gulph so deep, and that we could with difficulty hear its hollow murmurs: over this chasm is thrown a single stone arch, about twenty feet wide, the breadth of the road nearly the same, and the

walls breast high; by a line and stone, I found the depth from the walls of the bridge, just sixty feet to the bottom of the rivulet, but, scarcely any place, can have a more gloomy appearance.

Some years since, a gentleman of Exeter, much distressed, rode from thence after night to this bridge, purposely to destroy himself, by leaping over the walls, into the fearful gulph; to prevent as supposed, his death from being known, and his body from being ever discovered: it was however found shortly after, by his cloaths being entangled in the wood, about forty feet deep, and taken up, with a line and hook, fastened to the body; by men let down from the bridge, in buckets.

The river *Lid* or *Skait*, which passes thro' this chasm, rises about five miles in upon Dartmoor, and runs a course more curious and romantic, than any other river, in

Devonshire. About a mile and half from Lidford village, it forms a beautiful cascade; in the summer when we viewed it, more delicate than terrific; falling in one stream about one hundred feet, over a smooth rock almost perpendicular: midway down the fall, is a jutment of the rock, from which the whole river is tossed in such white foam, entirely over the lower part of the precipice, as caused it to appear to us, from the top to the bottom, like a stream of milk. At other seasons of the year, after heavy rains, we were told, the river being then very large, the cascade becomes tremendous, and astonishes the beholder; it is generally thought the best view of it, is from the bottom.

The rocky precipice on each side the stream, is thinly covered with wood, a little girl from the farm house near the brow of the hill, led us by a steep winding path thro' it, to the foot of the fall, where at this time

the noise was so great, we could not hear each other speak, and the rocks on and between which the water fell, encircled a pit or pool, that resembled a boiling cauldron...

Two of our company drew themselves up the precipice, holding by the bushments, so near the stream, that the whip in the hand of one of them was caught by it, hurled to the bottom, and lost; the enterprize was very hazardous, it was impossible to retreat, without the most imminent danger; and awed by the near vicinity, and violence of the stream, they reached the summit, with great difficulty, fear and trembling.

This little river, after falling from the precipice, and running thro' the chasm before described, where it was about three feet deep, pursues a most romantic course, to a place called *Skait's Hole*, which is a perforation in the middle of a large rock, thro' which the whole of it passes, and

falls immediately, into a deep pool beneath.

The various uncommon scenes this river exhibited, resembled transmigrations, and filled the mind towards night with terrific, and gloomy ideas.

Tired with the researches, and active employ of the day, we dined late in the village of Lidford; and were satisfied with collecting from our attendants, other particulars of this secluded, but once noted place.

The church tho' very old, had nothing remarkable in it, a scuffle in the churchyard however, arrested our attention. The maid servant at the Inn, willing to shew us within a tomb above ground, (which she was opening,) the mouldering remains of a man, former husband to the sexton's wife, who attended us with the keys of the church; the woman was so enraged at the daring insolence of the maid, in seeking to expose the body of her *dear first husband*,

that she attacked violently, the unsuspecting girl with tooth and nail, to our no small surprize, and drove her from the sacrilegious enterprize: this was the more extraordinary, as the sexton's rib was not famous for conjugal or parental affection, which her present good man, and four children sufficiently witnessed.

We had been five hours in the road from Tavistock to this village, about eight miles, along the skirts of Dartmoor, so many new objects having solicited enquiry, and claimed our attention: Much time was employed in ascending *Brent Tor*, a very high conical hill, on a rocky base, a few miles on this road from Tavistock; on the summit is a church, named St. Michael's, and burying yard, from whence is an extensive prospect, in every direction; it being a much higher point of land, than any in the vicinity; yet it is remarkable, that when a

new grave is dug in this church-yard, it is presently filled with water, in which the body is buried, and there is scarcely ever an instance of a dry burial. The church is small, neat, and warm, tho' so much exposed; but I believe not often numerously attended, the access to it being very difficult.

The three bells in the tower, can be heard at a considerable distance : there is little worth noticing in the church, but the following monumental inscription.

To the memory of JOHN COLE,
Who died in 1694, Aged 22 years.

If thou be serious friend, peruse this stone :

If thou art not so, pray let it alone :

Against death's poison, virtue's the best art :

When good men seem to die, they but depart.

Live well then, and at last with us thou'lt feel;

Bare dying is not death, but dying ill.

At the foot of the hill, an incident occurred, which afforded us much diversion. The boy who attended us with the baggage, was ordered by an elderly gentleman of the company, to lead his horse close to the hill, that he might mount it with more ease; the boy placed the beast in such situation, that the old gentleman when mounted, found his face towards the tail of the horse; several successive essays, produced similar effect: 'till our friends passions were so much raised, at the boy's stupidity as he termed it, a charge which rather attached to himself, that he could not speak articulately, and when mounted by other aid, continued his complaints to the end of the mornings ride.

Tavistock, was one of the mannary towns for the coinage of tin, and where those courts were held; it is not very large, but well built; the river *Tave*, runs alongside the ruin'd walls of the Abbey, leaving a

pleasant walk between. **ORDULPH**, the son of **ORDGAR**, (by the admonition says a monkish legend, of a vision from heaven,) built the large abbey here, in 961, and dedicated it to St. Ruman, with a church one hundred and twenty six yards or paces, in length, spacious cloisters, and thirty six arched stalls, the Abbots of which, were barons of Parliament. In this monastery, was anciently established a lecture, to be read in the saxon language, for the preservation of the antiquities, laws, and histories, written in that tongue, which continued to the fifteenth century; about the middle of the seventeenth century, during the civil wars, it was revived, and books were printed here, in the old saxon language, (particularly a grammar,) and the old school refitted, for teaching it in.

The revenues of the abbey, were valued in the reign of **HENRY** the eight, at £. 902, 5s. 7d. per annum.

At the dissolution of the religious houses, in 1539, King HENRY gave this monastery, and the lands belonging, to John Lord RUSSELL, afterwards created Earl of BEDFORD, the borough and town of Tavistock, and burghage of it; with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage; in which family it has ever since continued, and is now possessed by the present Duke of BEDFORD.

The steward for the Duke's estates, in this vicinity resides at Tavistock, in a very good house, built on the scite of the ancient monastery, part of which being in good preservation, is kept in present use. In the parish church, dedicated to St. Eustachius, we were shewn some human bones, taken out of a stone coffin, dug from the ruins of the abbey, when the foundation of this house was laid; said to have been those of ORDULPH, the founder, son of ORDGAR or ORDGARIUS, then Duke of Devon, who

kept his court here, and whose beautiful daughter ELFRIDA, was married to King EDGAR: they were extremely large and long, generally perfect, and must be the remains of a very tall, and lusty man, which the legend describes ORDULPH to have been, viz of such great bulk, height, and gigantic strength, that he is said to have broken iron bars of gates, and to have strided over rivers ten feet wide.

The Bedford Arms Inn, is within the boundaries of the original walls of the abbey; the stables appear to be built, on the site of the monkish cells, and the horses to occupy, the once consecrated stalls.

Early in the morning, walking alone, between the river Tave, and the outer decaying walls of the abbey, my thoughts were fully employed, on the rise, design, mature establishment, and dissolution, of the monastic institutions and buildings;....how

unfriendly soever, they may have been, to the mild and tender affections,....to the relative duties of society,....to the discovery and progress of beneficial arts, frequently the offspring of necessity,....in former periods, they were not wholly without utility.

In the ignorant and barbarous feudal times, (characterized by Mr. BURKE, as the *envied* age of chivalry,) those buildings afforded a secure depositum, to the most valuable manuscripts; the monks were employed in copying, the mouldering and mutilated, writings of antiquity; and, to their diligence and care, we are much indebted, for the neat and perfect preservation, of many of the works of the past and remote ages:.... the splendid orations of Demosthenes, and Cicero,....the rudiments of Aristotle,....the Iliad, Odyssey, and Æneid,....the records of Herodotus,....and the classic histories of former times;...the Jewish dispensations,...and

the Christian scriptures;....with innumerable other rolls, of the learning and wisdom of antiquity,....which might have otherwise, sunk into eternal oblivion,....or, been lost, in one common ruin.

They were also, sacred asylums, from oppression and fury. Amidst all the ravages and desolations, of ferocious Chieftains; (Mr. BURKE's favour'd chivalrous knights) with plundering banditti at their heels; those silent secluded abodes, were passed with superstitious awe;....the most violent dared not to enter the hallowed gates, but to beg, the boon of charity;....to satisfy the hunger,allay the thirst,....or be refreshed from the weariness, attendant on their Quixotic, marauding pursuits.

This borough, has enjoyed the privilege of sending members to Parliament, ever since the reign of EDWARD the first, which are returned by the Portreeve. The

right of election, is vested in one hundred and ten freeholders. These freeholds however, being the property of the Duke, it may be easily judged with whom, the actual power of election lies.

Great as the influence of this nobleman may be, it appears however to have been employed, in a more beneficial manner, for the inhabitants of this place, than any election influence I have ever heard of; if, we may believe the following anecdote, authenticated to me by a gentleman well informed of these matters, at whose house I spent a pleasant evening.

The inhabitants of Tavistock, have long been employed chiefly, in the manufacture of serges for the East India company, and sometimes meet with great difficulties in conducting their business, when there has been little, or no buying, of the factors, their agents in London, by the company &c. or,

when those *worthy gentlemen*, have found it their interest to write them so. Many years since, in the early time of the late Duke of BEDFORD, this was remarkably their case, the manufacturers suffered great inconvenience from the delay: such a weighty stock of serges lay on their hands in London and Tavistock, as rendered them incapable of continuing their business, and consequently the labourers were generally without employ. Heavy complaints of distress, were made to the Duke's steward, he justly represented their circumstances to his lord, who ordered him to buy all their goods on hand for his account; and, to direct them to resume manufacturing their usual quantity, which he should likewise buy at the market price, and pay for them as delivered. The inhabitants were soon fully employed, and gratefully acknowledged their obligations, to support the Duke's nomination of members, to re-

present the borough in Parliament, at the general election, which took place soon after.

In the mean time, by influence elsewhere, the serges were sold, but with some loss; a regular account of which, was kept by the steward.

When the general election commenced, the gentlemen who applied for the Duke's nomination and support, to be returned members for Tavistock, were told, he had an account with the freeholders there, which if they would pay the balance of, to the amount of two or three thousand pounds, the freeholders would be requested to elect them: the conditions were accepted, and those candidates accordingly elected.

The reader will acknowledge the valuable exclusive benefit, of this plan of influence, to the traders of Tavistock; he will probably think on the *sobriety, animation, and æconomy*, which form the basis of some:

the secret *convincing* arts, and *enlightening* contrivances, which effectuate other elections : and *exultingly* reflect on the *happy* consequences, reasonably to be expected to flow, from a national council, formed of men, so *liberally, rationally, and judiciously* chosen.

We came late in the evening to *Oakhampton*, and being five in company, made such formidable appearance on entering the *White Hart Inn*, as greatly alarmed the master of it ; who being exhilarated with the festivity held at his house in the day, assumed that dignity, which the host on some occasions, thinks proper to support. The dirt on our clothes, contracted in the researches of the day, and general discomposure of dress, increased his suspicions, and the difficulty to obtain a suitable reception in his well provided house, for our wearied limbs and half famished appetites ; to eager

enquiries, we had the harsh answers, loudly vociferated, and often repeated, who do you take me for? do you take me for the cook, sir? do you think me the chambermaid, sir? earnest importunity however finally prevailed, the lord of the land vociferated Mary, Nancy, shew these men into the back parlor, and fetch some of my clothes to dress that man, that his own might be washed, (pointing to our friend, who had climbed the precipice near the cascade, and who was indeed in sad plight ;) and Betty do you roast a hare, and brace of partridges for their suppers, and provide some other solid food, for I perceive they are keenly set, and must have a quantity : by the manner of delivering these orders, we found the apprehensions of our host, were done away, and that he was disposed to be facetious with our condition ; we had indeed a very good supper, were otherwise well provided for the

night, and led into the best fore-parlor next morning, where the rain detained us much of the forenoon.

Oakhampton lies in a valley, about a mile from the borders of Dartmoor, from the turf of which place, the inhabitants get much of their fuel. By the records of antiquity, it appears to have been a much more considerable place than at present. We are assured from Domesday book, that **BALDWIN** the Viscount, held *Ochemenstone* of the KING, where he had his castle; and that there were then four burgesses and a market: ninety two knights fees, also once belonged to it. Lord **COURTENAY**, has a large park in the vicinity, containing seventeen hundred acres; on which the growing timber, is computed worth £. 3000: near it are the ruins of an old castle, probably that of **BALDWIN**, above-mentioned, dismantled by **HENRY 8th.** The chief employ of the

inhabitants, is in the manufacture of white serges for the India company, the returns of which weekly, are estimated at five hundred pounds. The corporation is peculiar, divided into chambers, the first of eight aldermen, the other eight common council ; the Mayor, is annually elected from the former. The police of the borough, seems to be directed by one family only. The weather permitted us about noon, to leave this town, noted for nice small mutton, and a crafty electioneering spirit, prevalent among the four or five hundred *freeholders*, and *freemen*, as they are sometimes ludicrously called. The largeness of my company, and heavy rain, prevented other researches.

At Cornish Inn *Sticklepath*, we were again detained by the rain several hours ; we found here a friendly host, and good tempered family, who entertained us with many

anecdotes of themselves and connections, provided an excellent dinner, and supplied us with proper clothes, to resist the rain on the exposed road to Moreton. A talkative humorous son of Crispin at this place, amused us much, with accounts of his exploits &c. among others, that himself had caught that season, eight hundred and ninety eight trouts with rod and line; which he had generously given to his numerous friends.

At Moreton our whole company separated, and left me in this place. One morning at breakfast, at the Inn here, reading the Bishop of LLANDAFF's apology, in answer to Mr. PAINE's age of reason; a plain well drest man being alone in another room, came into mine to breakfast: and seeing this book which he had not read, desired me to lend it him a few hours, whilst I was engaged in the town.

Upon my return in the afternoon, he

said he had read the book, and thank'd me for it.

Well sir, how do you like this apology?

Well enough for a Bishop, friend. A man, bound to articles and creeds of human authority, to rites and ceremonies of human invention ; and supporting a system of worldly power and interest, whilst defending the principles of a kingdom, not of this world, I tell *thee*, is like a boxer, with one hand ty'd behind him, fighting his antagonist with both at liberty.

But are not other sects, besides the Episcopalians sir, subject to articles and creeds of human invention, which their several synods, associations, or leaders have framed, and to which they are closely attached ? and if so, who will you find proper, among the differing sects of professed christians, to defend the common faith, against

such bold unbelievers ?

Truly I tell thee, not one of such as thee hast described ; none that have subjected themselves, or been made subject by others, to doctrines, rites, ceremonies, articles, or modes of faith, formed by any human authority whatsoever. Dost *thee* think, I should apply to any, that have corrupted, or supported the corruption, of the plain doctrines of the gospel, by forming ruling societies under the name of christian churches, with new laws, coined words, fanciful expressions, harsh discipline, and inconsistent opinions, no where to be found in the New Testament, to defend that book against the attacks of infidels ? Verily, such professed believers, have done nearly as much injury to the cause of divine revelation, as the artful, insinuating, or bold opposers of it; have they not, by such opinions and practices, authorized by ambitious, or otherwise

interested Leaders, Councils, Synods, Assemblies, Meetings and other Associations, invited and encouraged superficial enquirers after truth, as most of our modern unbelievers have been, to attack Christianity, or rather what is called so by such authorities ?

Will it not then be difficult I repeat, to find proper defenders of divine revelation, in *any* professed christian societies ? Are not *most* of them formed, on some peculiar opinions, under some authorities of their own establishing, which believe and enforce *such* for the doctrines of the gospel ?

I hope friend, there are *some* christian communities, who are satisfied with the plain doctrines, clear and holy precepts, and wise institutions of JESUS CHRIST ; who believe the Christian Lawgiver himself, has sufficiently provided, for the government and direction of his followers, and who do not therefore adopt any other. In past times

members of such *have* appeared, able defenders of the christian faith as it is in JESUS; and such I doubt not *will* arise, equally successful champions of the sacred cause ; who having no human creeds to defend, will be able to produce, satisfactory evidence to every diligent impartial enquirer, of the truth of divine revelation, conformable to the history of it, in the christian scriptures.

But should we not be thankful sir, to the members of *any* professed christian society, to oppose the adversaries of divine revelation, as far as their peculiar tenets will permit ?

I tell thee friend, all sects profess to think *their* peculiar tenets, and *their own* authorized institutions, a part of christianity; hence many corruptions *have* originated, which cannot be defended against any shrewd antagonist, who taking advantage of this weakness, obtain an ascendancy over

the minds of many, who have not leisure, or will not afford themselves time to enquire, or have not sufficient capacity or firmness, to distinguish the pure and genuine doctrines of JESUS, from those they have long learned to venerate as such, in the articles and creeds of their several churches ; which leads men first to doubt, and afterwards totally disbelieve, any doctrine professedly of divine origin; to discard all such without enquiry, with the doctrines they have hitherto believed sacred, but which they find cannot be defended. Some also affecting *singularity*, and to be thought more knowing men, prefer being enrolled with the disciples of HUME; to adopt his monstrous credulity, rather than the reasonable testimonies of religion : to cross the Styx in Charon's boat with him, to the land of *doubt*, *obscurity*, or *despair*, than tread the plain path to rational perfection and happiness. Others, guided by the fashions of the

world, or that love darkness rather than light, are glad to embrace any system that will free them from the obligations of a pure, holy, and spiritual religion, which prohibits their inordinate sensual and worldly pursuits; encouraging the expectation of *dying* as a dog, that they might now contentedly *live* like one.

In the seventeenth century, the reveries of *enthusiasm* invested with authority, shocked the feelings of sober thoughtful men, reason fled, the benevolence of the christian law was upset, the civil governments, not only of monarchy, but of the representative commonwealth, were turned out of doors; numerous atrocities were committed in the name of the Lord, and the Lord's anointed, 'till the Lord was no longer believed in by the generality of men, who sunk into the extreme of licentiousness and unbelief, hated the very name of religion, and persecuted

with unrelenting rage, a considerable time, all those who sought to adhere steadily, to the truth as it was in the gospel of CHRIST only.

The latter end of the eighteenth century hath witnessed, the miserable effects of *superstitious* corruptions; articles and creeds, rites and ceremonies, fooleries and absurdities innumerable, held up many ages to mankind for the religion of JESUS, and employed in the alliance and service of oppressive despotism, at length brought forth the spirit, and matured the like opposite extreme of infidelity, in defence of the common senses and common feelings of men : when that struggle commenced, which to the astonishment of mankind in our age, has swept away thrones, principalities, and powers, with the rubbish of superstition, drenched the field with human gore, and desolated the richest part of Europe.

The contest is not yet at an end, let us hope, it will finally prove beneficial to the cause of truth, and the general happiness of mankind ; be the means of restoring the religion of CHRIST, to its primitive purity and simplicity, to the re-establishment of those just principles, on which we may safely rely for the successful defence of divine revelation, against all sceptics and unbelievers whatsoever, until *they* can establish a system of *equal* authority, more congenial to the felicity, and more consolatory to the nature of man.

Having at thy request given thee my free sentiments on these subjects, somewhat at large, I desire now thy friendly attention a little while to my own story. I farm an estate on the borders of Cornwall, on the produce of which, and the industry of my family, the Parson of the parish demanded thirty five pounds a year for tythe, for his

labor in the church, and for the cure of souls; I thought it a very heavy charge, and disproportionate : but notwithstanding all my remonstrances, he would not remit me a single farthing.

This man a few months since, was gathered to his fathers, and another Parson lately succeeded to his claims and duties ; from him I hoped a milder treatment, and some reduction of this weighty burden on my family ; to encourage industry and promote improvements. But how great was my astonishment ! when he demanded of me, eighty pounds a year instead of thirty five, and said he would not abate any thing of that sum. I told him it was a very unreasonable claim, and could not be paid ; saying to him, Wouldst thee like to be served in the same manner ?

I dont know that I should. Wherefore then wouldest thou do to another, what

thou wouldest not like to have done to thyself?

I must make the most I can of my living. But why also treat me worse than my neighbours? Dost think we are of worse character than other men? Some good, and some bad, among you as among other sects. Dost thee believe us as good as other men? Some bad, some good, as I said before. But dost thee think friend, that we be as good in general, as men of other sects or societies, who call themselves christians? Yes, I do believe you are as good in general as others.

Then what benefit is there in paying tythè for preaching? Our friends pay nothing to any person for preaching, and yet thou dost acknowledge, we be as good as others.

Verily, according to thine own confession, it would be as useful, to throw the

money paid for what is called tythe, into the river Tamar, as to pay it to thee for preaching.

The gentleman being now called out of the room on business, we separated : his conversation was impressive, and afforded me much matter for serious reflection, in the subsequent ride. Tho' moderately attached to the civil polity and manners, of the society of *friends*, he appeared quite free from the enthusiasm, by which that religious sect has been long distinguished ; to be animated by a sincere love of truth, and of the freedom and happiness of all mankind.

Returning thro' *Exeter*, in the last century called *Excester*, a camp, town or castle on the river Exe, so named from *Iser*, the *Isca Damnoniorum* of ANTONINE, and *Isk* of the Britons, because abundance of reeds according to CAMDEN, grew on its banks ; I endeavoured to discover the time

when this city first received its present name, which is said by an old charter, to have been changed from *Monkton* to *Excester*, by King ATHELSTAN; when he brought it first into subjection to the saxon government about the year 930: and built the monastery here, dedicated to God and St. Peter; the origin of the Cathedral Church, about the year 932. From the writings of Alexander Needham, prior of St. Nicholas here, many ages after; the couplet thus modernized is taken.

The EXE, a River of great fame;
To EXCESTER, has given name.

The inhabitants of Exeter appear, not only to have been negligent of the history of their city; but to have continued to this time, inattentive to the natural advantage and beauty of its situation. How clean and wholesome might this town, built on such gentle descent towards the river, be always

kept, by a stream of running water above ground through the streets, conveyed to the city by proper aqueducts from the adjoining hills ? at perhaps much less annual expence, than is necessary to support the forcible water works on the river, and the numerous subterraneous wooden pipes, that now lead the water through almost every part of it : which, notwithstanding the great attendant expences, are ill suited, and insufficient, to cleanse the streets of that filth, with which they are generally overspread.

If water can be conveyed to the conduits from the sources described, why not by similar means throughout the city, in a proper manner, to effect the purposes above mentioned ? How easily might the lamps also, which now scarcely do more than make darkness visible, be so much better arranged as to enlighten and direct the way thro' the streets by night, in safety.

The Citizens will not be offended at these observations, which have for their motive, the health and convenience of the inhabitants.

The woollen trade of this place in time of peace, has been estimated to produce annual returns of £. 600,000. The population is computed at twenty thousand souls.

The members of the municipality, or chamber of police, pride themselves much on their loyalty; and make great professions of steady attachment, to their King and Country: whether the general practice of this body be consistent with such high professions, must be left to the judgment of those, who are better acquainted with their conduct. If we may credit some respectable Citizens, the members of this incorporated band, (like many others in Great Britain,) never forget the well known motto, under the arms of the city; SEMPER FIDELIS, *pro se ipsis.*

The well regulated Hospital here, is a noble monument, of the liberality and beneficence of its supporters, in the county of Devon, and city of Exeter.

The Castle, famous for its antiquity, having been some time the seat of the West Saxon Kings ; and its many sieges, on various occasions, and in different ages ; is now the seat of county justice, and the walls support a beautiful promenade, with commanding prospects.

Another visit to the Cathedral Church, presented to my view ; the *divine* assemblage of the inquisitorial court. Great thanks are due from the British nation to Mr. BASTARD, one of the knights of this shire, for his strenuous endeavours in Parliament, to remodify this *holy* consistory : and clear it of the rust of time, which six centuries have heaped up, to the no small obstruction of its *salutary* operations.

As a proof of the very ancient celebrity of this place, many ages before the foundations of the Cathedral were laid ; it is worthy notice, that in July 1778, some elegant Roman *Dii Penates* in bronze, were discovered in digging a cellar under the house of Mr Upham, situated in the high-street at Exeter, at the corner of Broad-gate, which leads from that street to the close of the Cathedral Church.

They were found within a narrow space, and not more than three or four feet below the present pavement of the cellar.

They consist of five figures, all of them executed in a taste, far superior to the generality of statues found in Britain ; it is therefore reasonable to conclude, that they were the workmanship of foreign artists, and of an early period.

The first, a female figure four inches and half high, is dressed in a long loose garment

covering her whole body ; her hair is adorned with a diadem, like those on the heads of Livia, and Trajan's Queens, her hair, ty'd behind, falls down her back ; her left hand is broken off, and in her right she holds a cornucopia of fruit. The sharpness and folds of her drapery are so corroded with rust, that they exhibit very faint traces of the original elegant workmanship. On comparing this figure with those represented in Montfaucon's collection, one of the goddess Ceres appears perfectly correspondent to this statue, both in the head dress, and drapery ; she has also a cornucopia, but holds it in her left hand, her right having a bunch of poppies ; both these being emblems of that goddess.

Two statues of Mercury, one four inches and half long, the other four inches and a quarter, were found at the same time and place. The former is a perfect and

well formed figure ; instead of a bonnet, or Petasus, the wings on his head grow out between his hair, as they do in some statues represented by Montfaucon, and he has no wings on his feet. A long loose garment doubled on his left shoulder, passing under the upper part of the arm, is brought over it below the elbow, and hangs half way down his leg ; his left hand, tho' turned upward, as if meant to contain something, is empty ; his right holds a purse.

The other statue of Mercury has the Petasus, and wings on his feet ; he is more clothed than the former figure, his garment entirely covering his right arm and side, and reaching down almost to his feet, his left arm is in a similar attitude, but the shape of the purse in his right hand is different ; there are statues of Mercury in Montfaucon resembling this figure also. This second figure of Mercury, has suffered both in the

limbs and drapery, by the moistness of the earth in which it has lain, but is not without original merit. A bronze Cock, found with these Penates, is justly supposed to have belonged to one of these statues, as it denoted vigilance, and is represented as an emblem of Mercury in several gems, engraved in the same volume of Montfaucon. There was also a square, and round brass pedestal, accompanying these statues, and such we find represented under the statues of Mercury also, in the afore mentioned plate.

The fourth figure, two inches and half high, represents either Mars, or a roman warrior completely armed, with an high crested helmet, coat of mail, and boots covering the whole front of the leg; the right arm erect probably held a sword, and the left a shield, but both are truncated at the hands.

The last, and most elegant of these

figures, is only two inches and a quarter in height. From the delicacy of its make, the turn of countenance, and the dress of the hair, it seems applicable only to Apollo, for it is undoubtedly a male figure; the right hand is broken off at the elbow, the left holds something like a linen cloth, but so covered with rust, that it is impossible to ascertain its form.

These five Penates were found with, or rather surrounded by a considerable quantity of large oyster shells, which from their size, and form, are known to come from a village on the sea shore, called Budleigh, twelve miles S. E. from Exeter.

There were also in the same mass, various fragments of urns, of different forms, sizes, colours, and kinds of earth; some of a dark brown, and others of a bright red, the latter in particular very highly glazed, and much adorned with fancied borders, and

human figures executed in a very elegant taste; but the havoc made in these urns, must not be attributed to the workmen, who were employed in digging the cellar: for the space wherein they were confined, and the manner in which they were dug up, prove, that the confusion had been made at some former period; and Mr. Upham the owner of the house, was too attentive to their work, after the first appearance of the statues, to suffer them to proceed, without a constant inspection; he caused them to continue their search, and discovering a large roman tile, expected to find it the covering of a roman urn, but to his great disappointment, found it lay only on the natural earth, which certainly was not its original position; but must have been thrown there, together with these broken urns, which then lay included within a space, too narrow to have contained them, if they had been entire. It is also

remarkable, that no medal or coin of any kind was found with them, tho' the owner caused the rubbish to be carefully examined and sifted. But on the opposite side of the street, when the foundations of Mr. Dennis's house were dug, two years before, some small remains of a tessellated pavement were discovered, with a few roman medals, one of them a Trajan, in large brass.

Together with these antiquities, were also found some fragments of horns, bones, teeth, cinders of glass and metal, and some quantities of burnt wood; of all which specimens were sent, for the inspection of the society of Antiquaries, 11th of February 1779, by the late ingenious Dr. MILLES, Dean of Exeter, and President of that society; from whose account of the discovery, this is extracted.

The road between Exeter and Tiverton is much diversified, the extensive prospect

from the top of Stoke hill, and ancient tower in the village.... The church and ruined castle of Bickleigh.... The picturesque ride of three miles from Bickleigh to Tiverton, by the banks of the Exe.... The vista of high trees on Collipriest hill.... And the elegant wooden bridge, thrown over the river near the town, by Thomas Winsloe Esq. claim the attention of all travellers, and mark the near approach to perhaps the neatest, best built, and most pleasing inland town in the County ; fully described in the historical memoirs of it.

THE course of another excursion, was directed close along the sea coast of Devonshire, by the British Channel.

At Topsham I took a boat to go down the river Exe near the west side, and landing at *Powderham*, was received with great civility by the Rector of the parish, who led

me thro' his gardens, and into the church ; where I observed an old monument of Isabella de Ripariis or Redvers, Countess of DEVON, who first built Powderham castle, and the wear across the Exe named from her title ; she was one of the richest and most powerful subjects in the kingdom, and died in 1292. The lawn before the castle is highly beautiful, gradually ascending from the river, few of the old walls now remain, and little of antiquity is found within the buildings of the castle ; having been new modelled by the late Lord COURTENAY, and much modernized by the present.

An excellent fac simile of *Magna Charta*, with the signature of King JOHN, and the Barons, hangs against the wall in the steward's room, and attracted much of my attention.

The family of Courtenay is one of the most ancient nobility in the kingdom, it has

been in possession of Powderham, many centuries, and had the title of Earls of Devon, several ages. The origin of it is traced to ATHO, a French Knight,...his nobility in the rank and title of a nameless father,...his opulence in the foundation of the castle of *Courtenay*, in the district of Gatinois, about fifty six miles to the north of Paris; his grandson Josceline is enrolled, among the wild heroes of the first crusade. Some of this family became kings or emperors of Constantinople,...others kings of Jerusalem, ...in the course of descent it became allied by intermarriage, to the royal family of CAPET in France;...and by similar means to that of TUDOR in England....From a jealous tyrant of this latter family, the Courtenays met misfortunes, degradation and death;...whence they assumed the plaintive motto, *Ubi lapsus ! quid feci ?* Queen Mary indeed, restored them the title and estates of Earls of

Devon, from personal affection to the last Earl; but he preferred voluntary exile to her capricious favours, and dying abroad, the male line of the eldest branch became extinct.

The younger branch resided at Powderham, in the quality of baronets only, till raised to the peerage by GEORGE the third, and this branch of the family of Courtenay, continues to reside in this elegant Castle, noted for that munificence, which few of the noble families of England have equalled.

From the preserved records of this family, we may learn much of that vicissitude of human life, which many if not most other families, have experienced. With teachable minds, we may improve from the general instructions, of obscurity and fame, poverty and wealth, honour and misfortune. Characters of meanness and greatness of soul, ignorance and learning, wisdom and

folly, mischief and utility, with all their gradations we might likewise have found, in the revolutions and histories of most other families to the remotest period, had their genealogies also been preserved.

Let us then duly consider the lot assigned ourselves in life, whilst we possess it;...what the design and ultimate end of our being? whether with HUME, who professed to know *much* of the laws of nature, we are only to attain the *great pre-eminence* of the beasts that perish; or the solid benefit arising from the improvement of those mental powers and moral faculties, which, if wisdom and goodness are the characteristics of the great Creator, appear designed for progressive durable existence; and promotive of infinitely higher and nobler happiness, than this scene of things can afford.

The passage, about a mile across the river to *Exmouth*, in the evening, was at

this time boisterous and dangerous, the boat was aground on the sand several times, and we reached the passage house late, and with great difficulty; the wind was so high, the boatmen thought it unsafe to return that night to Topsham, and continued at Exmouth till the morning. Several instances were remembered, and told me, of the loss of pleasure boats and company, as well as larger vessels, in navigating this river at improper seasons; and particularly in attempts, to pass the narrow channels between the sand banks, and crossing the bar at its mouth, which the masters of loaded vessels will not risk, without able pilotage.

Exmouth is one of the most frequented watering places on the Devonshire coast, it is irregularly built in groupes of houses, some of which are good modern buildings, erected of late years chiefly by the inhabitants of Exeter, several of whom have their annual

summer residence here ; many elegant and convenient houses, have been built also, to provide lodgings, for the numerous families that yearly visit this place : there are some pleasing walks shaded by high trees, in what is called the square, a large open place in the centre, between the scattered groupes of buildings.

Tho' the walks to the river side, and sea shore, over the loose sand, are troublesome to invalids ; those on the cliffs are highly pleasant, and salutary, and easy of access : they afford an extensive sea prospect,....much of the south coast of Devon.... the course of the river with its variegated banks....and the amusing view of the passing vessels of trade....Powderham...the Belvedere towering above a thick wood...the village of Star cross....and distant view of Halldown hills on the opposite side of the river, exhibit grand, interesting, and diversified

pictures, of nature and art beautifully combined.

We find nothing of Exmouth in antiquity, but of its being a small fishing town, composed of mariners and fishermen's dwellings, which are now chiefly confined, to one or two narrow streets on the side of the hill, where the females are generally employed in the manufacture of lace.

On leaving Exmouth, I crossed the river to Star cross, and pursued the road to Dawlish near the coast; tho' early in the morning, we found the sun very troublesome, in the low narrow lanes, and were much incommoded with the dust: however a good breakfast, at a little neat new built Hotel in Dawlish, made sufficient amends, and the animal spirits were amply refreshed therewith, for new enquiries. The church, and old village town, is situated about a mile from the sea To gratify the

rage of fashion, and of pleasure, now the great inducements of families to live in the summer at the seaside, tho' probably originating from the claims of sickness and infirmity, or œconomy, a new town has arisen within a few years, from a marshy vale near the shore, perhaps the most pleasing and elegant, of any of the accustomed watering places in this County; it is built in the form of an amphitheatre, open towards the sea; the houses have neat little flower gardens inrailed before them; a small rivulet from the adjacent hills, runs thro' the middle of this almost circular town, much like a canal, and sinks into the sands at its extremities.

In a small vessel at sea near the shore, this neat little town has a most pleasing aspect, and invites permanent residence.

I never spent a week more agreeably than in this place; the mornings were employed in walking on a smooth beach of

sand close to the sea, which at all times affords subjects of useful reflection; What deep sense, of an infinitely wise and powerful Governor, is impressed on every considerate mind, by viewing such small part only of the great world of water,....stored with inhabitants, as numerous perhaps as on the dry land, and daily fed by his never failing bounty:....which form in return, the means of immense supply of food to the human race, the superior inhabitants of the world! How admirably are the Oceans, and all their branches fitted, by a proper knowledge of navigation, for opening and continuing, easy and free communications, and useful intercourse, between the numerous nations and families, of the rational offspring of God! made of one blood, tho' situated in various climes, producing different colours, manners, and pursuits, at different distances, near and extensive, from each other, throughout the

circuit of the Globe; which the greater difficulty and danger of travelling on land, would for ever preclude? How regular the flow and ebb of the tides, not yet satisfactorily accounted for, which by their continued motion, preserve from stagnation and putridity, the great watery mass? let thought climb the coral and rugged rocks! the numerous saline pillars! the lofty mountains of sand! and travel over the vast field of submarine vegetation! let it explore the immense caverns of the deep abyss! view the innumerable tribes, and inconceivable number of animals, that inhabit those dread abodes! and say whence came all these, and by what power, do they all live, and move, and enjoy their existence.

The forenoons between breakfast and dinner, were regularly spent in reading the credibility of the gospel history by Dr. LARDNER, a writer as free from prejudice,

and unbiassed by human authority, as any my companion at Moreton could have wished, or we can ever hope to find; whose statements of the evidences of the truth of Christianity, and the objections of infidelity, are so candid, impartial, and universal, as deservedly obtained him, the esteem and gratitude, of the worthy and good, of almost every sect of Christians: who candidly wrote him their grateful acknowledgments, of the services he had done the sacred cause.

Bishop GIBSON, highly recommended this excellent work to his clergy, and expressed his approbation of it in the strongest terms, that it was (in his opinion) the best defence of the religion of Christ, since the days of the Apostles; who supported their testimony, by miraculous powers. The character of Dr. Lardner, will always be high with impartial enquirers after truth, the arguments and evidences for, and objections

against divine revelation, are fairly and strongly stated by him, and the reader left to draw his own conclusions, and form his own judgment. It is much to be wished, that the youth of the present age, would carefully read this excellent and entertaining work, which employed thirty years of the life of this wise and considerate man; they would not be so liable to be misled, by the superficial declamations, and *ipse dixit* assertions, of former or more recent writers, in the cause of infidelity.

From this source the respectable PALEY, has collected the chief arguments, in his useful publications; hence has been taken the best information given to the world, by other more compendious writers, in the cause of religion and virtue.

It must afford great satisfaction, to all those who hope for a future better existence, that so great a weight of evidence, and such

numerous testimonies remain, to the truth and divine authority, of doctrines, teaching rational piety, exalted virtue, present consolation and peace, and future immortality; that such substantial proofs are collected and preserved, of the divine communications of miraculous powers, to Christ and his apostles, to promulgate and impress them on a degenerate world;....to raise men from the darkness of ignorance, idolatry, superstition, and wickedness, and the fear of death, to the light of truth and righteousness, the favor and acceptance of the greatest and best of Beings here, and the assured hope of a resurrection from the dead, to life and perfect durable happiness.

That the world needed such important discoveries, to effectuate such deliverance, and that the minds of men have been greatly enlightened and improved, by the promulgation of the gospel.

That some among mankind in very early ages, did enjoy divine communications, and receive miraculous powers, and that such was necessary to preserve the knowledge, of the one living and true God, and his reasonable service; historic testimony which cannot be controverted; and which indeed is better ascertained, than most other histories of remote transactions, abundantly confirm. It was the opinion of some of the wisest and best men of the heathen world, that such divine instruction was necessary, and that such messengers would come from God; the fact is asserted in the writings of the Jews, who may be numbered among the greatest enemies to the christian dispensation, but who remain a people of living witnesses, to the important truth.

Compare the lessons of Confucius.... the doctrines of Pythagoras,...the instructions and speeches of Socrates,...the writings

of Aristotle, Plato, and Xenophon ;....with the language and sentiments of the ancient Hebrew Patriarchs and Prophets :....what doubt, weakness, and uncertainty, are exposed in the opinions of the former, respecting the existence and rule, of a wise and good governor of the world, and the service to be paid him ! what great obscurity, in their views of the most interesting concerns of the human race in futurity ! and how sublime, rational, and just, the sentiments of the latter, in their belief and description of the character of God,...their trust and confidence in his righteous providence,...and the reasonableness of their hopes and expectations, from his government in future !

Read the book of JOB, the chaldean Patriarch, and that of DAVID, the shepherd King of Judah,...what dignified sentiments are expressed in those poetic writings of God, his attributes, character, and government,

how consistent and reasonable ;....what animating impressive rules of morality,....what elegant and sublime descriptions, of the various parts of animate, and inanimate nature, as the works of an infinitely wise, beneficent, and almighty Being.

Are such to be found in the poems of Homer, or Hesiod, their nearest contemporaries, and perhaps the best in the pagan world? how comparatively insignificant are their subjects of description....mean their allusions...and unimportant the end and design of their writings.

Let us bring in competition the works of Cicero, and those of the best authors of the Augustan age,....the purest doctrines of the Bramins, in earlier or latter times,....the wisdom, learning, and mythology of Egypt ;and all the flowery productions of the east....or, the finest works of the most celebrated sceptical philosophers of recent time,

of Bolingbroke, Shaftesbury, Rousseau, Voltaire, Chesterfield, Gibbon, or Hume, or any of their numerous adherents or followers. Is the knowledge, and information, afforded by any, or all of these, so rational, instructive, and important; so convincing, and impressive; so animating, interesting, and consolatory, as those of the plain unlearned followers, of JESUS of Nazareth? Is all the boasted eloquence and energy of *their* language, equal to the beauty of that unadorned simplicity, which characterize the writings of those humble men? Or, have *their* doctrines, such natural tendency to promote the peace and happiness of mankind, as those delineated in the life and character, and related of the words and actions, of the wise and benevolent preacher of the gospel.

Whence then is the superiority that those men and writings have, which profess

to teach the way of eternal life, to those of the philosophers of Greece and Rome,....of India, China, and Egypt,....of France, and Britain, in their most enlightened times.

Whence, but from the extraordinary immediate tuition of heaven ! It is a fact much less credible, indeed a series of extraordinary facts, infinitely less reasonable to be believed, than any miracles that Christianity requires ; that men in such humble stations, unacquainted with the rudiments of human learning, and unsupported by human power, should have been able without divine aid, evinced by solid evidence, to propagate successfully throughout the Roman Empire, in the most enlightened age of the world ; a religion professedly superseding the Jewish rites of venerable antiquity, and converting in a few months, yes in a few days ! many thousand Jews to the faith :....destructive of the idolatries and superstitions of the

long established mythologies of the heathen world, and all the interested dependants on them, opponent to the conceited tho' highest wisdom of Athens, and Rome ; and inimical to the sordid interests, ambitious pursuits, corrupt passions, and licentious pleasures of men :.... Yet proselyting multitudes daily, of the different nations, people, and languages, under the dominion and government of Rome, of all descriptions ; to a belief and conduct, that exposed all the professors, to reproach, persecution, sufferings, and death :.... It is great ! it is monstrous credulity ! it is to believe effects, without adequate causes ! Such was not the progress, nor such the reception of the Koran in the world.

Tho' MOHAMMED was a man of high rank in Arabia, grandson of a man of one of the most powerful and respectable families in Mecca, and himself intrusted, with

the superintendancy, conduct, and direction, many years, of the rich caravans from thence to Egypt, and Syria ; (not a mere camel driver, as has been commonly supposed,) tho' he was richly married, and nearly allied to the chiefs of his country, tho' such person, and so situated, when taking upon himself, the character of a religious teacher, in an age of ignorance, superstition, and barbarism, could not fail of attracting attention and followers ; yet, during the first twelve years of his preaching, making use only of argument and persuasion, he gained very few converts to his doctrines ; in three years he made only fourteen proselytes, and in seven, only eighty three men, and eighteen women. Notwithstanding his religion was artfully interwoven, with the powerful attraction of sensual delights, he found force and violence, necessary to propagate it : till he made use of the sword, the number of

his followers were very few. He was at once a prophet, a warrior, a general, and a conqueror. At the head of his armies, he preached the Koran ; his religion and his conquests went on together, and the former never advanced one step, without the latter. He commanded in person, in eight general engagements ; and undertook by himself and his subordinate Officers, fifty military enterprises. Death or conversion, was the only choice offered to Idolators ; and tribute or conversion, to Jews and Christians. In these means we find a sufficient natural adequate cause, for the wide propagation of the Mohammedan faith, and the sources whence the Koran obtained its high applause and *miraculous* character ; it was dangerous to deny the *exquisite beauty, purity, and elegance* of the language, which the Mohammedan Doctors represent as a standing miracle, greater than even that of raising the

dead : and no mussulman dares now, to call into question, the truth of their representations. The follower of CHRIST, opens his sacred pages, to liberal investigation, and just criticism ; patiently attends to the objections of the interested, depraved, prejudiced, and supercilious ; and claims only a voluntary acceptance of his faith, from a rational conviction of the truth of the gospel.

The dinner hour at Dawlish, was spent daily at the hospitable retreats, in rotation, of the temporary resident families of Devonshire ; the afternoon with parties in little excursions at sea, or short rides in the adjacent country ; to *Mamhead* the pleasing seat of LORD LISBURNE, and through his parks ; to Hall Down hills &c. &c. ; after supper I returned to the little hotel, to spend a solitary hour before bed time, but this solitude was frequently disturbed, by the company in the adjoining rooms, made the places of

evening rendezvous of the servants belonging to the several families, visiting this elegant little watering place ; sometimes the lively dance would shake the slightly built fabric of this new Inn ; but generally the enlivening glass, accompanied by the busy tales of the little secrets and domestic concerns of the families they served, employed their evenings to a late hour, to my no small amusement, and sometimes important information ; for the swift circulation of exhilarating beverage, soon raised the tones to a very audible height, and impressed my mind with a deep sense of the unpleasantness, or injury, to which their employers might be exposed.

The road from Dawlish to Teignmouth of four miles, has much variety of hill, and vale, open, and close country.

Teignmouth is an irregular town, divided into East and West, both together of

long extent ; a large bed or shoal of high sand called the Den, lies between the towns and the sea on the south east, round which is a very smooth beach of fine sand, forming the shore ; and at about high water mark, or somewhat above, a neat gravel walk very pleasant and commodious, made within a few years, by the subscriptions of the temporary visitors, with seats at proper distances. The fine smooth beach, gradually sloping towards the sea, is very convenient for the bathing machines, which are numerous, and the town is in consequence, the most frequented and alluring watering place in Devonshire. Within a few years past many new and elegant buildings have been erected, and other convenient lodgings provided, for the numerous annual visitants of all descriptions, in the houses of most of the inhabitants.

The harbour at the mouth of the river

Teign, which gives name to this place, is very pleasant, safe, and commodious for Merchant Ships of several hundred tons burden; on the beach before it a fish market is held every day, which affords a daily supply of fresh fish, (brought here by the Brixham fishing vessels,) much amusement, and entertainment. This river is navigable about four miles from the port towards Newton, the banks beautifully variegated with woods, meadows, cottages, &c.; and the road along side, high, romantic, and picturesque; many pleasant voyages are made up the river, by parties formed at Teignmouth, and many agreeable rides on the road to neighbouring seats and villages, &c.

Teignmouth is a place of some antiquity, it was formerly a borough, and the inhabitants once sent ROBERT att WILLE, and WILLIAM de HALCOMBE, to a council at Westminster, to treat of maritime af-

fairs and trade ; being an open defenceless place, it has been much subject to invasion ; the Danes who were sent to discover the situation of Britain for their intended invasion, landed here first, about the year 800, and having killed the Governor of the place, esteemed it a presage of their future success. The French took this town in the reign of RICHARD the second, and did much mischief. The French also burnt it in the reign of Queen ANNE, but gained little honor or profit by their enterprize. The Bishop of Exeter in the reign of HENRY the third, granted to the inhabitants three hundred acres of land, and they had many privileges, one of which remains at this day ; a claim of whatsoever value is found about the body of any person drowned, between a rock called the *Clerk*, on the east, and a place named *Hackney*, on the west : here is a hospital called the Maudlin, built by the

inhabitants of West Teignmouth. The business and chief profits of the inhabitants arise from the abundance of sea fish taken, and brought in here, and sent to the inland parts of the country ; and building of small vessels, which employ many shipwrights, &c.

During a residence of several weeks in this town, I was much entertained with the acquaintance and informations of new society ; the great variety of company, which assembled every fine evening, walking on the promenade ; morning visits to the fish market, and drawing the seans on the river ; excursions at sea ; and rides in the vicinity : parties were frequently formed for these purposes, and the variety of entertainment occupied my time agreeably. New society, and the acquaintances formed at these places, afford no little improvement ; reciprocal enquiries give mutual information, and we

daily return to our lodgings with some fund of reflection, and conversation, from every little walk and excursion. Contracted as our minds might have been, by moving in a narrow circle, *these* general conversations, with persons assembled from many *different* and *distant* places, teach us the *lessons* of *philanthropy*,....we are brought to think better of our *fellow men*,....to esteem *them* equally with ourselves, as the *children* of *one common parent*,....and by the many attentions of society, to *love* mankind.

One branch of commerce is carried on at Teignmouth peculiar to that port; the conveyance of clay from thence to Liverpool, for the fine earthen manufactures of Staffordshire: it is dug in the parish of King's-Teignton only, formed into little irregular squares somewhat like bricks, weighing thirty-six pounds each: About seven thousand tons are annually sent from these

pits, in barges, on Mr. Templar's Canal, to the river Teign, and down that river to the port, at 1s. 6d. per ton, toll and boatage; whence it is shipped for Liverpool, and there dispersed to the several manufacturers of Staffordshire; the number of tons are determined by the tale of the squares abovementioned. This little Canal, the first made in Devonshire, and at the sole expence of Mr. Templar, meets the Teign nearly at the place where its navigation commences, and is the means of great benefit to the inland country, by the return of coal, and other necessary and useful commodities. Great part of the barren waste of Bovey Heathfield, and the lands near his elegant seat, appear, in consequence, like a *new creation*, from the wide chaos around it, and with the produce of the canal, afford many increasing advantages to the inhabitants of the adjacent district, as well as to the public

spirited projector and cultivator.

Bovey Heathfield, near the ancient town of Bovey Tracy, is thought to be the lowest land in Devonshire, and one of the most barren spots in England; on it are mines, or rather wide and deep excavations, whence is dug a sort of fuel, of disagreeable smell, lying in strata resembling the trunks of very large trees, and the colour of half burnt wood : it is the opinion of many, that these strata *were once* trees, and buried at the time of the deluge, or by some other great convulsion of nature.

A large earthen manufacture is conducted at *Indio* on the borders of this waste land, with the clay dug from the same pits as that exported to Staffordshire, and burnt with the fuel above described. It was a pleasing entertainment to visit the several departments of this pottery, which is brought to a degree of elegant perfection, and may

probably in some future time, by the additional aid of coal, (now more easily obtained by the canal,) rival the manufactories of Staffordshire.

I have been used to form some general idea of the characters of the living inhabitants of the places I have passed through, from their monumental inscriptions ; and to visit the Churches and Church yards, with the view of attaining such knowledge, and for the purpose of selecting the eccentricities, or deviations, good or bad, from this general rule of judgment.

An almost universal sameness of character and stile prevail in the inscriptions on the dormitories of this little seaport town. In West Teignmouth Church yard, the following, said to be composed and inscribed by a *Stone Mason*, who erected the tomb for his family, needs some interpretation.

Here lieth the Wife of Malachi Gill,
His Sister, and his 'Prentice still;
Who in their lives lived very upright,
And now they are gone out of our sight;
And one day we hope to see
Each other, and in heaven to be.

The mysterious Epitaph of Malachi
Gill, reminds me of one more so in Sid-
mouth Church yard.

In memory of WILLIAM STONE,
Who departed this Life 29th. December,
1784. Aged 64.

See and behold you standers by,
If you live as men, so do you die;
And let no rogue come near your bed,
T' expose your mind when you are dead.

On coming out of the church sunday
noon, we observed a man standing at one
end of a grave, motionless as a statue, with
his eyes fixed on the turf, he noticed none
of the people passing down the yard, but
in answer to our repeated earnest enquiries
he said, he was ruminating on a *beloved*

Brother buried there, as was his custom to do, and then resumed his fixed attitude and solemn silence, in which situation, after looking at him a considerable time, we left him.

In the Church I found the following inscription on an elegant monument.

Sacred to the memory of MARY FOOTE,
Youngest Daughter of the late Revd.

F. H. FOOTF,

Of Charlton place in the County of Kent.

She was born 2nd. April, 1772.

She died 29th. June, 1789,

Endowed by Providence with an exalted understanding,
And an affectionate heart;

Which were cherished and improved

By diligent cultivation:

She had already given

The most promising earnest of mature Virtue;

When it pleased the Almighty,

At an early period,

To terminate her severe probation.

Her patience and humble resignation to the divine will,

Thro' a long and painful illness,
 Endeared her to her afflicted friends;
 Her fervent yet rational piety,
 Has left them nothing to regret,
 But their own loss.

Intending to keep as close to the Sea shore as possible throughout this tour, we crossed the mouth of the harbour about six in the morning for that purpose, sending the horses and servants in a large barge, we followed in the passage boat ourselves, and landed near the village of *Shaldon*, which we found a much meaner looking place than it appeared on the Teignmouth side of the water. It is however, in an improving state, and lodging houses are building in detached situations. It is made also an interesting place, by the salmon and other fisheries: drawing the seans within the harbour of Teignmouth is the general employ of the poor inhabitants, and much fish is taken by them to this side of the shore, by li-

cence from Lord CLIFFORD, of Ugbrook, who claims the royalty, and is paid a certain toll proportionate to the number of salmon caught within the mouth of this river.

Ascending a long steep hill, we came to *Mary Church*, supposed to be the most ancient in this county. At several places in the ascent we had fine prospects of Teignmouth, the river Teign; and the sea; on the summit, the town, river, &c. becomes a bird's eye view, and is very picturesque and beautiful, the den appearing like a very small inclosure between the sea and town. We travelled a very uneven road to *Tor Moham*, a scattered village, which gives name to *Tor Abbey* and *Torbay*: a very intelligent and communicative blacksmith directed us the best road to *Tor Abbey*, the seat of G. CAREW, Esq.; the avenues of trees leading to the house, resemble the aisles of a Cathedral Church,

and from such shady walks in large groves, (the scenes of druidical worship) probably originated the forms of the Gothic Churches : from the entwining branches of the opposite ranks of high trees, the peaked arch ; and from the clumps of lower trees and wood for separate, perhaps sacrificial uses, the several departments of those ancient buildings, consecrated in the æra of superstition, to *sepulchral shrines*, and other pious uses.

We saw little without the mansion house that claimed much attention, besides a very long large barn in the gothic stile of architecture, apparently of great antiquity, but not so old, as a date (one of our company supposed it to be) on a large stone at one end, 777, which probably was inscribed for some other purpose. It has the name of *spanish barn*, from the circumstance of its having been a place of confinement of

the prisoners taken at the defeat of the Spanish Armada, who were sent ashore on the coast of Torbay, near which this house is situated. On the appearance of the Prince of Orange's fleet, on 4th November 1688, the owner of this mansion, supposing it to be the french fleet coming to the aid of King JAMES the second, provided a sumptuous entertainment for the officers, which those of the Prince's fleet and army that landed on this part of the coast secured for their own use, and enjoyed a most unexpected agreeable repast, as well as a good shelter from the weather on a cold rainy day : notwithstanding this unfavourable weather, the Prince of Orange landed on this circuitous coast about twenty thousand men in one day.

Riding down the steep and dangerous descent near the cliffs, we had a general and fine view of *Tor Quay, Torbay*, and

the villages on the coast ; this bay is famous for safe anchorage, and capacious enough for all the Royal Navy ; the beach is even, and affords a very pleasant ride, close to the water, throughout great part of the circuit.

The village of *Paington*, about a mile from the sea shore, is a straggling place, but situated on a rich prolific soil, where great quantities of excellent cabbage plants are reared, and sent to many places in Devonshire, to be sold, and planted ; and produce almost every where in common soil, the most delicate cabbages in the county. At the Inn in this village where we rested to drink tea, we were uncommonly diverted by an affected servant girl, that waited on us, who put herself into so many different attitudes before a large mirror, to view her delicate person, (which was one of a hale and browzy texture) that we could not suppress loud laughing on the occasion, to the

no small diversion and gratulation of the girl herself, who supposed she had captivated most of the company, by her polite airs and handsome figure.

In this village are some respectable ruins of a palace, supposed to be built by one of the petty Saxon Kings at the time of the heptarchy, or more probably by one of the British Kings, who gradually retreated to the extremities of the kingdom before the Saxon invaders. In the large old church is a monumental shrine for the PARKER family, well executed, but much injured as well as the church itself, by frequent white-washing, the bane of fine sculpture, and all the remains of venerable antiquity.

Riding round the coast of Torbay, we had a fine distant view of *Brixham*, and the fishing boats on the water; a narrow intricate road led us into the town, which was very long and irregular to the quay, at

least a mile distant from the church; the tower is well built, and some of the houses near the church, but the greatest part of them irregularly dispersed, and mingled with the trees and hedges, down almost to the water; near which they are more compacted into narrow dirty streets, made more unpleasant by the stench of putrid fish; great quantities of fish, of all sorts, being brought into this port, indeed it is the most noted wholesale market for fish, of any place in the west of England; upwards of ninety sail of fishing boats belong to this town, each from thirty to forty tons burden, and are daily employed in fishing, throughout the bay, and in the sea to a distance of twenty miles from it.

The harbour is capacious enough, to contain the whole number on their return at night, and every day it is surrounded by fish dealers, who come from all parts to buy,

as the boats come in, to supply a district of inland country, fifty miles in extent at least; considerable cargos are sent also to London, and other large towns on the whole line of coast. At the east corner of the entrance to this harbour, is a complete watering place, for all the King's ships, and other vessels that anchor in the bay: the fresh water is brought from the adjacent hills, to a reservoir on the outside of the wall of the quay, from which it is conducted by large leaden pipes through the wall, at a proper height for conveying it into the casks, brought in small boats to the side of the wall.

Walking alone on the quay around the harbour, ruminating on the scene this place afforded in November 1688, I met incidentally a well drest elderly man, who suspecting the cause of my contemplation, desired me to walk with him, to the stone steps that led down from the quay to the edge of

the water ; I called you to this spot Sir, says he, to shew you the place where King WILLIAM the third landed, and to give you the traditionary account here, of this remarkable occurrence. I am seventy years old, and had the tradition from my grandmother, who died many years since, at a great age ; she was about sixteen years old, when the Prince of ORANGE's fleet, came into Torbay, and the boats of the fleet into the harbour, with the Prince, and his body guards, to land more conveniently : the people were frightened at first, but in a little time recovered their surprize, and crowded about the quay, which was not at that time so convenient as at present. She told me, she stood at this place, and saw three men take the Prince out of the boat, the tide being then out, and carry him over the mud to these landing steps ; he put his foot first on that blue stone with white veins, preserved on

that account to this day, and called out aloud, *Welcome or not !* the people huzzaed, *Welcome !* on which he walked up this flight of steps into the town, accompanied by many of his chief Officers, and guards, whilst the army was landing in various parts through out the coast of the bay; the weather was cold and rainy. The Prince gave nothing to the three men, who conveyed him ashore, 'till he was crowned King ; when he also sent for the person at whose house he lodged in Brixham, and bountifully rewarded him ; of which the man was robbed, on Paington Moor, on his return, by some rogues, who stripped him, and left him naked on the spot : which had such a melancholy effect on his mind, as reduced him to ideotism, and rendered him incapable of giving afterwards, the particulars of his disaster. I gratefully acknowledged my obligations to my unknown, but intelligent and communicative

companion, for this unadorned traditional history, of the commencement of such important events, as new modelled the British constitution, and in which every inhabitant of Great Britain was interested.

Torbay is in the form of an amphitheatre, somewhat more than a semicircle, being between seven and eight miles embosomed within land, from the two promontories of the *Nase*, and *Berry head*; which are about five miles and half asunder: by taking a circuit of two miles, we had an easy ascent to the *Berry head*, which by a direct foot path, is not further than one mile from *Brixham*. This promontory at the extreme point, is several hundred feet perpendicular from the sea, and affords a very extensive prospect of land and water; here was a battery of twelve pieces of cannon, forty two pounders, each gun sixty five hundred weight, and two or three smaller batteries,

at several different places, on the descent towards Brixham, with the guns pointed in different directions towards the bay. A telegraph has been lately erected on this high ground which communicates with that at Exmouth : within the fortifications on the summit of the hill, are five barracks for about five hundred men, the Berkshire militia were in them at this time, and had a fine band of music, their motto, "*Patria cara, carior Libertas.*" we were well entertained by the different new objects, which drew our attention in this excursion, and returned highly gratified to our repast at the Inn.

We had much difficulty, and some danger, to embark the horses at Kingswear, on board the passage boat to Dartmouth, notwithstanding a horse shoe nailed to the boat, which we were told had been lately done, to prevent the witches conveying it off, or endangering the passengers.

Dartmouth Harbour is nearly quarter of a mile wide opposite the town, and one mile long to the castle, built at the extremity of the south point towards the sea. The river *Dart* to Totnes, about nine miles, is adorned on each side by variegated woods, interspersed with fertile meadows, gentlemen's seats, and beautiful lawns; with distant prospects of dreary mountains, and so many differing objects, as afford throughout a most pleasing variety.

The *Quay* at Dartmouth, and street adjoining, is very pleasant, and the houses well built; but the rest of this large town, built on the side of a steep hill, is by no means agreeable, two or three streets are built one above another, very narrow, and each nearly level with the tops of the houses of that next underneath; the garrets and chimneys of which form one side of the next street above; the ascent to all or any

of them is too steep for chaises, and will scarcely admit I believe, riding on horse-back to them, so that the whole town doth not maintain one sadler, nor could we get any to mend one of our saddles which was broken.

The *Castle Inn* on the quay is a very good one, well furnished, and well attended, by female servants only; not an individual of the other sex being employed within doors by Mr. MAINPRIZE, who represented them as too assuming over, and ungovernable by his wife, when he was on his journeys, which engaged many months of his time annually. That *anarchy, disorder, or improper connections* between the men and the maids, prevailed so much during his absence, as obliged him to adopt the plan of employing maid servants only as waiters, which he had found by experience attended better, and gave greater satis-

faction to his friends.

We wished our landlord to supersede the authority of the rats also, that appeared to usurp absolute dominion over his house, after a certain hour every night; from which, many terrific apprehensions and dismal omens, elsewhere, have in numerous instances heretofore originated.

This town has been long famous for a considerable trade with Newfoundland; several rich merchants reside in the town and vicinity, and employ many ships in that commerce. We were informed that the trade of Dartmouth had been much larger heretofore, than of late years, the merchants having met considerable losses in some of their speculations, which had much damped their enterprising spirit; it is to be hoped however, the trade may become more beneficial to the merchants in future, as well as more extensive; it being one of the best

sources of providing the most hardy sailors for national defence, and therefore deserving the highest encouragement.

The road from hence to Kings bridge, about thirteen miles, is very intricate for strangers, we missed our way several times, and rode many miles out of it, for want of proper directions, with which such roads should be provided; and it being very hot weather were much fatigued; we passed through the large parish, but small town of Dodbrook. *Kings bridge* is a town of one irregular street, about a mile in length, with four conduits at proper distances, of good water, conveyed to them by an aqueduct from the adjacent hills: a small arm of the sea from Salcombe bay reaches to the town, at low tides little water remains in the channel, but at high water vessels of many tons burden can come up to the town: a little manufacture is carried on here of white

serges for the India company, but the retail trade of it, in a variety of articles, appears considerable : some flour mills are in the vicinity, which dress large quantities for exportation.

Kings bridge, is about five miles from *Salcombe*, to which place we had a pleasant voyage of one hour in an open boat. This village is built on a gradual ascent from the bay, of which most of the houses tho' irregularly dispersed, have a commanding prospect. Walking about this scattered romantic village, to enjoy the different views of land and water, we forgot the time of the tide, and had a most unpleasant return to Kings bridge ; the boat was stranded on the sands, about a mile from the town, where we left it for the return of the tide, and walked over the wet sands, deep mud, and uneven rocky ground an hour, arriving at Kings bridge very much fatigued after ten

at night ; here we made up however for the troublesome adventure, by a good supper on hot lobsters, and pleasant conversation with some travellers just arrived at the Inn ; one of whom, to keep up the conversation on extraordinary occurrences, entertained us with a story of his dog *Lion* ; who when his horse leaped over the boat in a stormy sea, with bags on his back containing a sum of £300, sprung over after it, and taking the bridle in his mouth, swam with the horse safe to the shore : he had however an unfortunate end, for after doing many other acts of utility for his master, his brains were beat out by some french soldiers with great barbarity.

The country around Kings bridge, called the *South Hams*, is noted for producing much cyder ; some of which is of excellent quality, and sent to the London market ; a great quantity is also exported and carried

elsewhere, of inferior quality.

We had a pleasant ride early in the morning to *Modbury*, passing over an arm of the sea, on a bridge quarter of a mile in length ; this town is built on a very uncommon situation on three steep hills, on which are three streets, and one on a plain, through which we rode into the town to the centre, where the four streets meet ; on the right is *galloping street*, so called from its very steep ascent ; on the top of the street on the left, is the parish church, spacious and venerable ; into which being sunday, we walked immediately after breakfast, and were much entertained with the numerous monumental inscriptions, ancient and modern, on the many marbles erected in it ; by those of modern times I have been used (as heretofore observed) to characterize the living inhabitants of the place, whilst those of past times enable us, I think, to estimate

the prevalent characters, sentiments, manners, and customs, of different and distant periods. As some proof of the justice of these ideas, I have transcribed a well engraved inscription, from a very large and finely polished black marble, covering a tomb on the floor of the church, raised about two feet from the ground; and hereafter shall probably introduce others, as farther testimonies of the propriety of this mode of general estimation.

Around the edge is this inscription.

Here lieth Master OLIVER HILL, Esq.
Who died the 26th. day of December, in
the year of Christ 1573.

In the centre the following lines.

O! wandering Wights whose way lies now,
To pass by this same Tomb;
Let's stay your steps, survey this verse,
And think on time to come.

Inclos'd in chest his carcase lies,
That earth inclos'd a mind,
Unto his appointed rest that fled,
Whose like were hard to find.

Amongst the massy multitude,
Of mortal men that be ;
Regarding righteousness so much,
Or loathing vice as he.

Having a will in all respects,
To make his word his deed ;
In friendships facts no man more frank,
To aid his friend in need:

Learn you to leave your lawless ways,
And fancy's fund to fly ;
Learn by his godly life, to live,
And quiet death, to die.

Of ancestors he did descend,
That famous were for skill ;
For judgment just, for wit, for wealth,
Their glory grow'th yet still.

Such have bade HILL, such to succeed,
And princes' praise possess ;
His pains in court, and toils in war,
Deserv'd indeed no less.

It's hard for men to leave their lust,
Possessing worldly pelf ;
Lo! yet did HILL renounce them quite,
And quite forsake himself.

Long looking for a better life,
 By faith in Christ to take ;
 Each reader too, I wish the like,
 By death, exchange to make.

Say riches fade, and form, and strength,
 And honour, eke and lust ;
 'Twere best by life, a place provide,
 Ere thou return to dust.

O mortal man ! that canst not 'scape,
 Death's dreadful darting stings ;
 Nor certain know'st, uncertain life,
 Where certain end he brings.

However just the precepts, and exemplary the character here described ; however elegant the diction for that age ; the obsolete quaintness and obscurity of the language, compared with the present, point out the age of Queen ELIZABETH, had there been no date prefixed. Sternhold and Hopkins, laureats to HENRY the eighth, were the general models of poetry and sentiment, for more than a century ; some few luminaries, as Shakspeare, &c. indeed appeared, who

would have honoured any age, but who were more the offspring of intuition, or extraordinary natural genius : nor did the language or sentiments in general much improve through the whole succeeding century.

The excellent Mr. Addison might be justly esteemed the father of the english language ; his sentiments generally just, were concisely and elegantly expressed, and his compositions may be called, as truly classic of the british tongue, as those of the Augustan age were of the latin, or the Demosthenian of the greek : purer language is in some degree productive also of purer ideas, moral, and sentimental ; of purer manners and customs, and more manly character ; and general taste and general external behaviour, have been gradually improving, since the publication of the *Spectator* in the reign of Queen ANNE, whatever have been the reigning follies and vices of mankind ; which

perhaps, on candid and impartial retrospection, have by no means degenerated below those of former times.

A large manufacture of white serges for the East India company is carried on at *Modbury*, and many of the clothiers are become very rich: stone conduits are placed at due distances in the streets, which give them a dress of antiquity.

We left *Modbury* before noon, and were much pleased with the fine ringing of the bells at *Yealmstone*, several miles of our ride: passing several pleasant villages, we were entertained much, by seeing the inhabitants in their sunday clothes, attending the several parish churches; hence some useful ends of the sabbatical institution, weekly cleansing, neat dressing, and social meetings of the peasantry, besides the more important purposes, of bodily rest, recreating refreshment, and mental improvement.

We dined at *Plympton Earl*, a village town on the road to Plymouth, and on account of the very hot weather, rested here several hours, visited the church and other public buildings; from the church yard we had a full view of some old saxon fortifications, very ruinous, and consequently undescribable (none but common monumental inscriptions in this place.

The endowment of a large free school here, we were told was grossly abused, by the neglect of the trustees, or sinister views of the persons employed, to regulate and conduct the plan of instruction; this is not the only instance of the perversion of former munificence. Other places afford examples of like misconduct, small presents, of a pair of gloves, or matters of similar unimportance to the masters, in the beginning, have led not only to presents of great value, but to the establishment of claims

founded on such custom, of more money annually, than would be sufficient to provide good private tuition for children in common stations of life, for whom such schools were chiefly intended.

Lord BORRINGTON's woods, on the verge of the sea, afforded a pleasing prospect many miles, on our ride by *Plympton st. Mary, Underwood, &c.* the house, or rather palace, we were informed is highly respectable, but could not conveniently visit it.

We arrived at *Plymouth*, in the evening, much fatigued with the heat of the day, which confined us within the verge of the traveller's hotel that night, entertained by a gentleman inhabitant of *Plymouth*, with a general account of this noble emporium of naval power. From a place of very little note formerly, it has arisen to considerable importance, and great population. This

town is supposed to contain now, fifteen thousand people; in its environs, and the Dock town, twenty thousand more are said to reside; chiefly employed about the concerns, and supplies of the royal navy, in time of war, and trading speculations in time of peace.

The next forenoon was employed in surveying Plymouth; the Guildhall is convenient, and adorned by several good portraits of the Kings, Queen ANNE, and Prince GEORGE of Denmark: here is a very fine one also, of the famous Sir FRANCIS DRAKE, with curious latin inscription. Capt. FANSHAW the mayor, and court of aldermen, were now met, to elect new members into that body. The church tho' large, did not merit much attention. To describe the garrison, and other fortifications of Plymouth, requires a pen better acquainted with military tactics; it did not strike me however,

with such an idea of strength and security, as many fortified places of much inferior note in Belgium and Holland. The road to Dock through Stonehouse is much populated, and the buildings will probably extend from Plymouth thither in a few years. The long room at Stonehouse is similar to those for like uses in other places. The royal hospital is a noble structure of granite stone from Dartmoor, well regulated, and supplied with every necessary for the unfortunate victims of war. Being a time of profound peace, we had no difficulty in being admitted into the Dock yard, by the application of an inhabitant of Plymouth well known there. It contains a space of seventy acres, inclosed by an high stone wall, of semicircular form, each end of which extends to the water; watch houses are placed at regular distances, with an alarm bell over each: notwithstanding these precautions, John the Painter, who

was afterwards executed at Portsmouth, got upon the wall unperceived, intending to drop into the yard and set fire to the magazines of cordage, and burn the shipping in the dock, &c. but being seen in the attempt by the centinel on guard, he retreated over the wall towards the gardens and escaped: he declared at his death, that better watch was kept here than at the other yards. Three thousand artificers at least were daily employed within the inclosure at this time: numerous assortments of mortars and cannon belonging to the ships in the harbour, and marked with their names, are dispersed about the yard, with balls, carriages, &c. in separate heaps; masts, yards, sails, and cordage, are kept in like order in several large warehouses, and marked with the names of the respective ships to which they belong. The main mast of the Royal Sovereign of a hundred guns, measured ten feet in cir-

conference, all others proportionate to their several ships of different rates.

To describe particularly, the different operations, and magazines, of this great deposit of naval stores, comes not within my present plan, or capacity; suffice it to say, that every department appears to be well regulated, and well adapted to its end and purpose. The great rope walk, for the manufacture of cordage and cables, from the smallest, to those of twenty four to thirty inches. The ingenious, immense, and extensive, works of the shipwrights. The tremendous shop of the smiths, for making anchors, &c. of all dimensions, some weighing from eighty to ninety hundred weight each: exhibits a grander and more terrific assemblage of reality, than the highest fabulous description the poets have given of the temple of Vulcan, or than the ancients could perhaps form any idea of. These great manli-

factories and repositories, with the multitude of ships of war in the harbour, of all descriptions, laid up in security; altogether display such a scene of naval power, and warlike naval provision, as perhaps the world never before this age witnessed; astonishes the mind of every stranger, to whom this great assemblage of naval strength is exhibited, and almost overwhelms it with endeavours to calculate the great expences, such mighty arrangements must occasion.

It was however matter of pleasure and satisfaction to us at this time, to consider the quiescent state of those vast engines of destructive war,.... to esteem them now in their best situation, as terrific instruments only to preserve peace, and the respect due to that great insular community to which they belong:....may such be their lasting impression, and constant use.

The harbour called *Hamoaze* is a capa-

eious bason formed by inlets of the sea to the mouth of the river Tamar, it is safe and large enough to contain most part of the Royal Navy of Great Britain ; the *Dock yard* is open to it on one side, *Mount Edgecumbe* lies on the opposite, and each affords a most grand, extensive, and enchanting prospect of the other, with all the noted environs on each side to a considerable distance. To be somewhat acquainted with the internal state and government of those great floating castles of War, and having an acquaintance aboard the *Cumberland* of 74 guns, then in commission full manned and ready for sea, we took a boat from the dock yard, and oared to that ship four miles thro' the midst of the fleet of 40 men of war, into which we were introduced by a safe and elegant ladder, and had a polite and friendly reception from Captain Macbride ; who directed two of the Lieutenants (one of them our friend) to at-

tend us thro' the ship, and invited us to dine aboard with the officers, (tho' himself was engaged to dine in the Town,) left a full supply of wine for that purpose, and directed them to entertain us well; we accordingly visited almost every part of the ship, and were highly pleased with the great order and regularity observed in every department, the exact present means, and ready obedience to execute the commands of the officers, the wonderfull effect of that naval discipline; which have rendered the British Sailors superior to those of any other nation on the face of the earth, since perhaps the beginning of time; here again I am at a loss for just description and must therefore be content with such general observations, as are most likely to strike the minds of persons totally unacquainted with naval tactics, and technical terms; to give us a proof of the agility of the sailors, one man ran up the rope ladders of the main.

mast, sat awhile upon the top gallant mast
 head about 180 feet high, and descended in
 a few minutes; an exercise Admiral Digby
 obliged Prince William Henry (now duke
 of Clarence) to perform every morning be-
 fore breakfast; The Captains cabin aboard
 a man of war, suggests the idea of the Sultan
 in his Seraglio, supremely separate from all
 the officers, he lives in it alone amply suppli-
 ed; and his apartments superbly adorned; he
 stands on quarter deck in time of action,
 and thence dispatches his orders, by proper
 attendants, like the aid du camps of the field
 to all the departments of the ship, where
 suitable officers are stationed to receive his
 commands, and see them presently executed
 none daring to resist his injunctions, which
 require implicit obedience.

It cannot be wonderfull then to those
 acquainted with the human mind, who know
 how much the possession of power begets the

love of domination and extension of it, to see these supreme officers claiming greater attention and respect when ashore, than the generality of men are disposed to pay them; and to affect an hanteur, which tends to lessen their real merit in the opinion of mankind. The Lieutenants, Chaplain and Surgeon, associate and mess together, and are well provided for in a large adjoining room, where we partook of some refreshment in their company; there are six bed rooms or birtlis for the six superior officers on the sides of it all of them were polite and obliging, and sought to give us as much information as they were able: the inferior officers according to their comparative stations, formed different societies in the best situations that could be afforded for them in the ship; and each appeared particularly attentive, to his due claim of precedence and respect down to the lowest sailors, who where accomodated

on the several decks with every necessary, not neglecting to provide situations for the occasional visits of their wives and sweet-hearts when in port, a considerable number of whom we saw regaling themselves with their husbands and protectors at this time on the tables and hammocks between the guns, to each of which 6 men are appointed, one of them the captain or director; this ship had 650 men on board, the full complement, and would have been ready to sail at 24 hours notice: we observed in the kitchen or galley fire place, boilers and all other utensils neatly in order, and well scoured; culprits are appointed to scour the floor with powdered portland stone, and do all the menial offices of the ship in consequence of their offences, this duty making part of their punishment; we thought it a wise and good resolution; every individual in the ship appeared to know, and to do his duty, to command, or obey, in

all their respective stations; the heaviest guns were on the lower deck, generally 32 pounders; the Cockpit, surgeons and mates births, and place for wounded men are all below the water, perhaps the best adapted for their purpose, as well as the safest that can be provided; but they were so warm, and otherwise unpleasant now, that they left impressions on our minds of the most terrific kind, when fully occupied, and employed, in time of severe action.

Three common rooms of seven feet square each, with hammocks adjoining, were allotted to 16 Midshipmen, the Steward's room, desk, and bread room were in the lowest part of the ship.

On our return to the yard, we examined a new dock for a first rate man of war, which appeared to us a most frightful cavity, and cost £100,000. From the watch mount we had a fine view of *Mount Edgcumbe*: The

two great rooms for making ropes were each twelve hundred feet long, and admirably well contrived for those useful works ; It was exceeding tiresome in this hot day to walk so much, and to examine the several departments, which prevented our further researches in the yard.

The town is regularly built, very spacious, and populous, but has few if any springs of pure water, and is totally without a stream of clean running water for general accommodation, hence that necessary of life is sold at high price to the inhabitants ; many schemes have been formed to conduct a stream thro' the streets from a distance of a few miles, and many proposals made by mechanical men, to convey it plentifully thro' the town at small expence ; but every plan has been hitherto opposed and obstructed, by interested men, (as has been generally supposed) to the great inconvenience of the people.

We dined at Plymouth with an eminent Chemist, whose ware-rooms were stocked with a great abundance of drugs of all sorts, from most parts of the world ; we were highly entertained with the view, of the most rare medicinal productions of the whole earth ; collected with such care and judgment as enabled him to supply in wholesale, many parts of the kingdom, with the best medicinal unadulterated commodities. In other respects he was an extraordinary character, an enthusiastic admirer of the writings of Van Swedenborg, one who firmly believed in the possibility of conversing with invisible spirits, and obtaining from them much information of the invisible world. He informed us that himself had such familiar friend, and that he had frequently received from him much satisfactory information, of events past, present, and to come, of which the world had been little acquainted. How to recon-

file such opinions, with the ideas we otherwise could not but form, of the understanding and integrity of our generous host, occasioned much close discussion, and many serious debates, in our company.

Our return was through the towns of Tavistock, Okehampton, &c. in which nothing particular occurred.

Finis.



Boyce, Printer, fore-street Tiverton.

